

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, March 26, 2014

Present

Cassandra Day (chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (v.chair)(7:04)
Franca Biales (sec.)
Barbara Arafteh (7:14)
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Charlotte McCoid
Lee Godburn
Richard Kamins
Fran Ganguli (7:16)
Sebastian Giuliano (7:14)
Anthony Moran (student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, Staff

Absent

Robert Santangelo
Lance Timmons

Call to order

Commission Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Municipal Building Room 208

Public session: no public

Minutes from February 26, 2014

Motion to approve by McCoid, seconded by Kirkpatrick. Discussion: none. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Kamins, seconded by Kirkpatrick. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Chair Day and the other commissioners welcomed Anthony Moran, the new student representative to the MCA. Chair Day thanked everyone for their time and commitment to the commission. The grant review process takes many hours. All the time and effort is appreciated.

Old Business:

a) Budget Report

Allison electronically distributed the current spreadsheets for review prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued as to why we don't have more money? We are all proud to be an Arts Town, yet the funding is light. Suggestion was made to take a look at the amount of money requested vs the amount of money disbursed.

b) Program Update

- i. Arts Stakeholders Group – Rod Frantz from CreateHereNow attended. The group would like him to be specific about what Middletown's role will be in sharing the funds. Art Space sub-committee is working on improving the Artwalk and conditions for artists/galleries in town.
- c) **Visual Arts Competition-** Task of coming up with ideas was completed by MCA. Waiting for Mayor to select the direction he would like to take.
- d) **2014-2015 goals** – discussion of goals. Discussion of an arts endowment. Perhaps create an arts endowment that will generate money and create growth. At next month's MCA meeting, create a task force to explore possibility of creating an Arts Endowment.
Would like to create awareness in our public officials about the arts to gain their support.
Would like to encourage more of our city officials to participate in local arts events.
Filling vacancies on the Commission.
Increase budget.

Committee Reports:

a) Public Art Committee

- i. Public Art Policy for Acquisitions-Ongoing- Pierre Sylvain is interested in having the MCA consider the purchase some of his art. The committee has artists that they are interested in and will be discussing this at their next meeting.

- b) **Executive Committee-** no report- Stephan read bylaws of Executive Committee role.
 - i. Other- Chair Day created an ad hoc planning and projects committee. Lee Godburn and Cassandra Day will serve on it.
- c) **Nominating Committee**
 - i. Review of Bylaws – ongoing
 - ii. Nomination suggestions- pending- Kamins will be in touch with the Mayor's office again. Sara MacSorley has been appointed by the Common Council to the MCA. Looking forward to welcoming her.

New Business:

- a) Kids Arts 2015 fees- We will increase our fee by \$50 /session, to \$175 from \$125, to align with fees presently charged by Recreation Office for their summer programs; sliding scale will still be in place for Kids Arts programs. The bulk of the expense is paid by taxpayers.
- b) Other- Lee Godburn organized a spectacular Arts Advocacy Award celebration at the Wadsworth Mansion to honor Deborah Moore and Artists for World Peace on March 24, 2014. Event was attended by approx. 75 people. Special thanks to Illiano's for donating the food and desserts and to Deborah Moore also for all her contributions to the event. Leftover food was donated to St. Vincent de Paul. Stephan will also note this on Art2Go.
 Motion by Hawkins Lecce to present a certificate to those who have shown extraordinary support for the MCA. Seconded by McCoid. Carried unanimously.
 Motion by Giuliano, seconded by Kamins, to present Vinnie Scileppi from Illiano's with a certificate of appreciation for his generous donation of food and service at the Arts Advocacy celebration. Carried unanimously. Stephan will prepare certificate.
 Grants panel for March applications is set for April 1 at 5 p.m. in the City Arts Office.

Miscellaneous: Arafah discussed the method used by the committee to select the Art Advocacy awards recipients.

Grant Reports- were emailed to the commission. There was discussion on policy for voting on grants. Discussion will continue at next meeting.

Announcements- GMC Presents Beatitude Mass, Sat. May 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm at MHS
 West Hartford Symphony Orchestra will present Ellis Island, The Dream of America, Sat. April 5, 7:30pm at MHS
 Vintage Players celebrating 20th anniversary with performance on April 25-27 at Green St. Arts Center
 All City Concert on April 5, 2014 at the Freeman Athletic Center.
 Mercy High celebrating 50th anniversary on Saturday.
 Giuliano mentioned not using personal email for public business.

Other- Cassandra asked Fran Ganguli, as the alternate, if she can serve on the grant panel. Jenny will be the new alternate should any panelist require a fill-in.

Adjournment:

Chair Day entertained a motion from Kamins to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., seconded by McCoid. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, room 208 Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Franca Biales